YANKEE AIR FORCE NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 852
WILLOW RUN AIRPORT
YPSILANTI, MI. 48197

Volume 1 | June 1982 | Issue 6

WILLOW RUN AIR SHOW

In the last few days I've met a lot of air show personalities. I've rubbed elbows with the Blue Angels, the Golden Knights, Bob Hoover and all the air show greats, but I can't think of any one greater than the membership of the YAF that worked on the 1982 Willow Run Air Show. When I needed help, you were there, when I needed support, you were there and most of all when I needed a beer you were there. I have worked with a lot of people in my time but I can say without reservation that the ones that will stand out above all will be the workers of the Willow Run Air Show. Chuck Newcomb, "Chips" Rieci, Roger Giere and everyone of the Newcomb staff have talked about the air show, the workers and the operation. We had some problems but that is to be expected, but during all the talks one fact kept jumping out and that was that every member of the YAF gave his/her all. No job was too great, no job too small. I personally couldn't ask for or hope to receive more cooperation and dedication from any other organization. I take my hat (cowboy) off to each and every one of you who worked the 1982 Willow Run Air Show. I look forward to any project big or small; I know in my heart that we of the Yankee Air Force will make a success of it. Thank you all for a job well done. I am proud to belong to the Yankee Air Force.

T.J. Wilkins
Air Show Coordinator
YAF Membership #23

FLINT AIR SHOW LABOR DAY WEEKEND

The Yankee Air Force has been asked to provide and coordinate the warbirds and biplane fly-bys and static displays for the Flint Air Show. This is a 3 day air show, September 4, 5, & 6 at Bishop Airport. Limited funds are available for fuel, lodging and transportation for flight crews. If you can participate in the YAF warbird fly-by or static display or the YAF biplane fly-by or static display, please call Dennis Norton by July 15. Let's give them a good show. This is a perfect opportunity to start expanding our sphere of influence. They'll give us a membership booth and 2 pages in the program as well as the exposure for our aircraft and crews. We're working dilligently on a Flint area chapter & this is to be the kick off for the membership drive.

HANGAR NEEDS

We need to have donated, new or used, the following items for the hangar restoration. Check your unused items around the house, hardware stores, lumber yards, businesses, closing plants, etc. Call Dick Kolbas or Tom Wilkins. Remember, all donated items are tax deductible.

HAND TOOLS
hammers*
saw**
pliers*
wire cutters*
pipewrenches*
ratchet set
paint brushes
paint rollers
level
propane torch
paint scrapers**
crescent wrenches

SUPPLIES
floor wax
windex
rags*
cleaning soaps*
sandpaper**
nails**
oil
screws**
caulk
fertilizer
insulation
roofing tar**

MISCELLANEOUS
rope
locks**
water meter
padlocks**
couch
easy chairs
bathroom mirror
scaffolding
burgular alarm system
linoleum tile*

ELECTRIC TOOLS & EQUIPMENT
sabre saw & blades
extension cords*
florescent light fixtures
lamps
fuses
stove
table saw*
romex 12/2-G and 14/2-G

OFFICE EQUIPMENT
filing cabinets**
large manila envelopes
bookshelves
tables
copy machine
telephone recorder
file folders

MISC. EQUIPMENT
brooms**
mops*
buckets*
shovels**
air compressor**
garden rakes
vise*
fire extinguishers**
spray paint gun**
garden hoses
300 folding chairs**
shelf brackets**
folding tables
cash register
color TV
garage door lock*

*Immediate needs
**Most immediate needs!!

ANN ARBOR AIR SHOW - JULY 4TH

Anyone interested in participating in a YAF fly-in at the Ann Arbor Air Show on July 4th (this Sunday) please call Dennis Norton. We'd like to coordinate things so we all arrive together and park in the same area to draw interest in the YAF. Call immediately. Anyone going to the show please wear Yankee Air Force hats and shirts. We'll try to have a membership booth there.

YAF CALENDAR

7/4 - Air Show, Ann Arbor, Michigan
7/3 & 7/4 - Air Show, Lunken Airport, Cincinatti, Ohio
7/7 - YAF general membership meeting, the Hangar, 7:30
7/9 - 7/12 - Michigan State Aerobatic Contest, I.A.C. Chapter 88, Sandusky, Michigan
7/10 & 7/11 - Annual T'craft Reunion & Fly-In, Alliance, Ohio
7/10 & 7/11 - 122nd T.F. Wing Open House, Baer Field, Fort Wayne, Indiana
7/12 - YAF newsletter deadline
7/13 - YAF Board meeting agenda deadline
7/14 - YAF Membership Committee meeting, Hangar, 7:30
7/17 & 7/18 - Canadian EAA Fly-In, Orillia, Ontario, Canada
7/24 & 7/25 - Dayton Air Show, Dayton International Airport, Dayton, Ohio
7/24 & 7/25 - CAF B-29 on display, no air show, Lansing, Michigan
7/31 - 8/7 - 30th Annual EAA Fly-In & Convention, Oshkosh, Wisconsin*
8/9 - 8/14 - Int. Aerobatic Club Championship, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin
8/21 - Air Show & Fly-In, Chippewa County Airport (formerly Kinchloe A.F.B.)
8/22 - Livingston County Fly-In, Howell, Mich.
8/29 - Dawn Patrol & Fly-In, Grosse Ile, Mich.
9/4 & 9/5 - Air show, Bishop Airport, Flint, Michigan*
9/4 - 9/6 - Air show, Burke Lakefront Airport, Cleveland, Ohio*
9/9 - 9/12 - 4th Annual Commemorative Mich. Air Tour
9/17 - 9/19 - 19th National Championship Air Races, Reno, Nevada
10/7 - 10/10 - CAF Harlingen, Texas
10/10 - YAF trip to Harlingen, Texas (sign up by August 1st)

*Indicates YAF participation

Accuracy of this calendar is not guaranteed. Check before you plan to leave for any of the above events.

Coming Events

August - YAF 1940's Big Band Dance
October - Int. Pl. Mod. Soc. Convention, Ramada Inn, Detroit Metro Airport

Stan Reich YAF #55

CLEVELAND AIR SHOW

We've been invited to fly in and display at the Cleveland Air Show on Labor Day weekend. Anyone interested call Greg Smith by August 1st. This will be another opportunity to put the Yankee Air Force on display.

YAF SAYS THANKS

The Yankee Air Force wishes to thank the following people for bringing their aircraft to the Open House and/or Air Show to participate in the YAF displays. Most of these people did not receive any reimbursement for fuel. Thanks again.

Bob Byrne, T-6
George Yezman, T-6
Larry Leaf, T-6
Red Partin, Navion
Lou Spanberger, Stearman
Stan Wallis, Red Wing Blackbird
Jan Mueller, Storch
Jimmy Hunt, P-51
John Lewkowski, Stearman
Neal Sutherland, Stampe
Jack Spanich, Skyraider
Glenn Lamont, B-25
Dr. Levine, P-51
Dr. Forest, WACO
Bill Johnson, Stearman
Lee Koepke, F-84
Hess Bomberger, P-51
Mel Magee, Stearman
Mark Johnson, Stearman
Bill McBride, Stearman
Tom Rawlins, Stearman

If we missed someone, please call Dennis Norton so we can acknowledge your participation.

HISTORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

I'd like to thank each and every "History Committee Member" who participated in the Air Show. You all did an excellent job which was borne out by comments made by our visitors.

Now that the Air Show is over, it's now time to think about the museum and the displays. Besides aviation history and its effect on Willow Run, we should make some decisions as to the goals of the museum and its ultimate format. Remember, we will have the whole second floor on the west side of the hangar. We don't want a dusty archive with a helter-skelter mishmash of items. The museum must be a living, vibrant part of our heritage.

Put on your "Thinking Caps." I know that all of you are not cavators by vocation or even avocation but that should not deter us from our goals.

See you at the next general meeting.

Phil Lundy YAF #12

CHAIRPERSONS NEEDED

(1) Program Committee (programs for meetings)
(2) Fund Raising Committee (very critical)

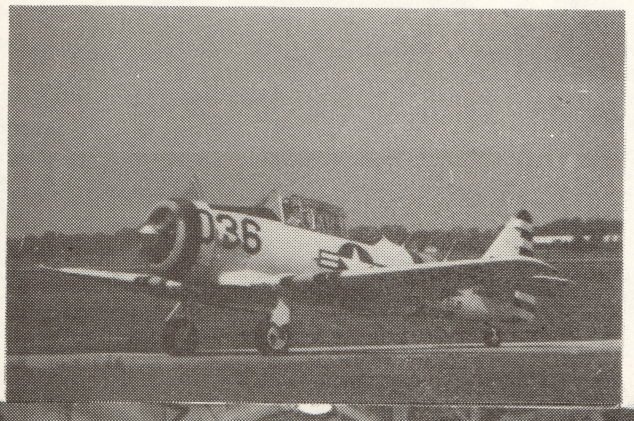
Call Dennis Norton to volunteer.

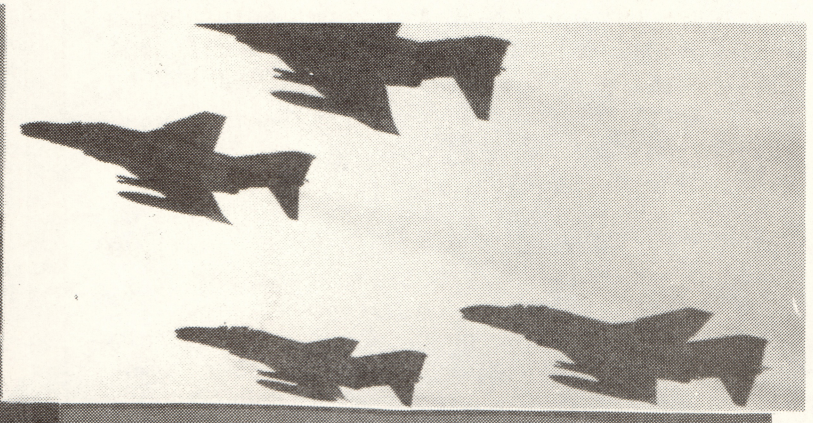
YANKEE AIR FORCE RECRUITING

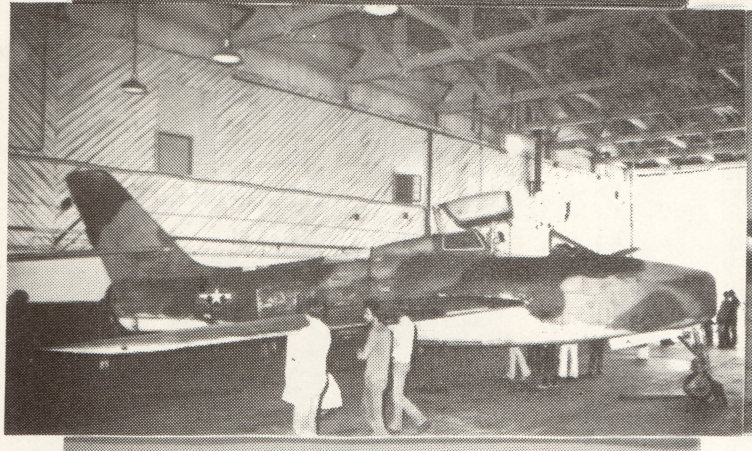
Anyone attending any kind of air show, dawn patrol, or fly-in, please wear YAF shirt, hat, or patch. Applications and brochures from Harry Terpstra are available to pass out. Everyone please recruit wherever you go.

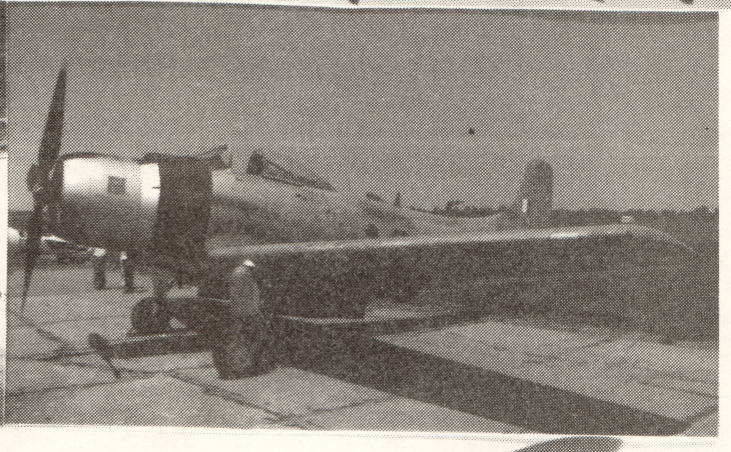
OPEN HOUSE

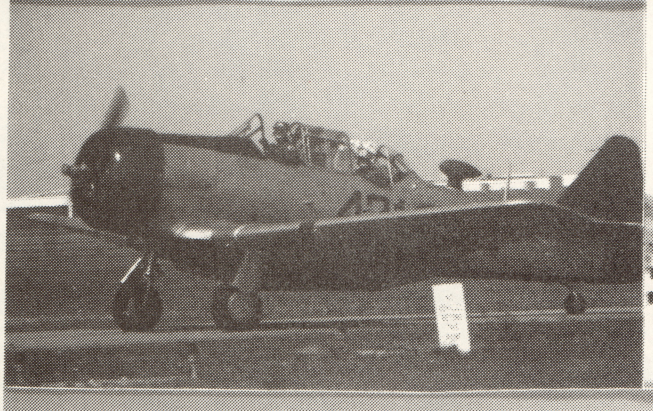
May 16, 1982

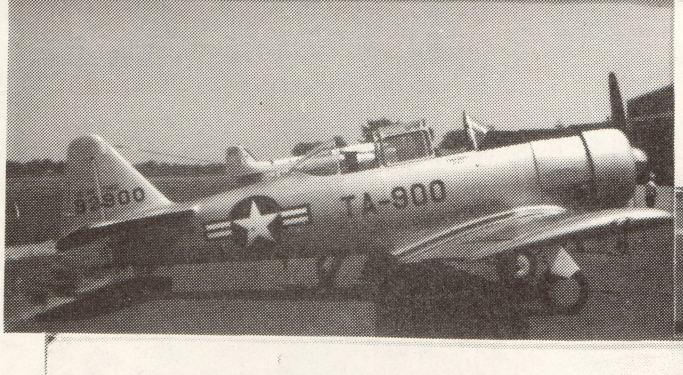


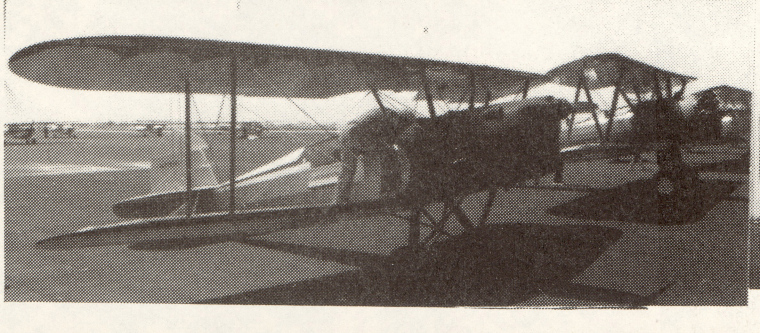


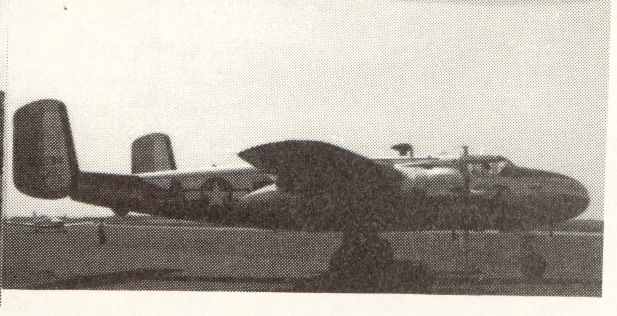












RETAIL SALES

This is the first of monthly reports that will be in the newsletter. I will keep you informed on new items and prices as they come available. I would like to thank each and everyone of you that was able to obtain a member hat and shirt for the Air Show. Everyone presented a very professional image and that is an appearance and standard this club would like to present at all times. The Air Show sales went very well. Fortunately I was blessed with a staff that was nothing short of super. They did an excellent job for the club and we hope they will volunteer next year along with a few more. Thank you very much for a job well done.

A few changes have been made in pricing. The new prices reflect a savings that you as a member will obtain on the purchase of t-shirts, patches and bumper stickers. We are in the process of changing some vendors, and any savings to the club will be passed on to the members. Our goal here is to obtain top quality items at a reasonable price so that the members can purchase quality logo products at a reasonable price through the club. A new order form is now available listing all products we currently stock. For those of you that cannot make the meeting or live out of town, enclosed with your newsletter you will find a new order form with all Yankee Air Force logo products. Your mail orders are welcomed.

We are presently forming a committee to distribute and sell our merchandise at various events throughout the year. Some of these events are out of town and we need volunteers who would be interested in working our booth from time to time. If interested, contact Terry Emery at 422-6278 for details.

One final note, I would like to thank all Yankee Air Force members for your support and encouragement with this new position. I would personally like to thank Dennis Norton and the entire Board of Directors for their help, encouragement, and suggestions. Your support is very much appreciated.

Terry Emery YAF #352
Retail Sales Chairman

B-24

The B-24 acquisition project is progressing very slowly but surely. We are in a negotiation process dealing through a 3rd party & a foreign country. This is a time consuming and delicate process but its our only real hope of obtaining a B-24. As soon as we have a definite commitment, more details will be released. With a lot of patience, we'll pull this off.

Dennis Norton YAF #1
President

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP - 750. Let's break 1000 by the end of the charter year.

MEMBERSHIP

The Air Show was successful for us and I would like you to join in welcoming about 150 new members to the Yankee Air Force. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who worked on the Air Show. Many people helped put up the booths on Thursday and Friday, and along with their scheduled work they also kept things dry on Saturday and held things down in Sunday's wind. I wish to thank these people for their enthusiasm as well as ideas on how to get the word out about the YAF. It was great to see both old and new members working (having fun!) together.

We again had a raffle at the end of each day. The winners were as follows:

Grand Prize: Wm. Glenn (#623) of Willis
and Larry Palonen (#655) of Belleville
2nd Prize: Alan Horton (#653) of Willis,
and Patrick Territo (#599) of Redford
3rd Prize: Greg Medici (#666) of Romulus and
Clay Anderson (#626) of Bloomfield Hills

Raffle prizes can be claimed at the July general membership meeting.

New members who have joined before June 20, 1982 should look for their membership cards in the same envelope as the newsletter. The plastic name tags for these members should also be available at the July general membership meeting. We ask that as many members as possible pick up your name tags at that meeting, we are getting quite a back-log of finished tags and are trying to avoid mailing them if possible.

The next Membership Committee meeting will be Wednesday, July 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the hangar. These meetings are open to any interested members and everyone is welcome. This function is getting especially critical as we have passed the 700 member mark and there are many policy recommendations to formulate before September. This is your opportunity to have input into how much memberships will cost, where the money will go and what types of activities we should participate in.

We have been receiving a number of serious inquiries regarding the establishment of "chapters" around the country. A number of interested members have been working hard on the development of a chapter charter. We hope to have a rough draft prepared by the end of June and a policy in effect a week or so after that so that these members will have a vehicle for participating in the YAF irregardless of their geographic location.

Please feel free to call me any evening (485-3049) if you have any problems or ideas on membership, chapters, or the YAF in general.

Harry Terpstra YAF #15
Chairperson of Membership Committee

HANGAR TALK

The warbirds fly again at Willow Run Airport, May 16, 1982. It had been decades since so many warbirds had been here at one time not counting Air Shows 1982 or 1972.

To start things off four F4 Phantoms from the 191st Fighter Group, Michigan Air National Guard base at Selfridge Field came screaming in from the west with a fantastic fly-by. Major Eric "Rick" Hagelthorn led his team and shook our hangar to say hello and good luck.

"Stearmans of America" flew in with 5 beautifully restored Stearmans led by Lou Spanberger. They had their own fly-in Air Show at New Hudson Airport the same day. Lou cut his own program almost 2-5 hours to be with us. Hats off to Lou Spanberger and his flying buddies!

Captain Glenn Lamont flew in with his beautiful shinning B-25, made three solid passes given chase by 3 T-6s, George Yezman, Robert Byrne, and Larry Leaf. Larry just recently purchased his T-6.

George Yezman, YAF member and owner of Eastern Aircraft Corp., Detroit City Airport, Bay 8, helped Larry get it back in shape for the fly-in.

Captain Lamont's B-25 stole the show, breaking the yellow ribbon to be the first warbird in our hangar since the 1940's. Ahh yes, there were lots of smiles and tears at that moment.

See you next month.

Frank Modlinski, YAF 238

T-6

A number of people have expressed an interest in purchasing a T-6. There are some T-6s available in the $20,000 range. If enough people are interested in putting up to $2,000 into a T-6 we could have one by mid-summer. This would initially be owned by the investors with the idea that the shares would eventually be donated to or purchased by the YAF with each investor making his own decision on whether to donate or sell his share. Individual investors would be able to fly (if qualified & signed off by the chief pilot) the aircraft at cost & other YAF members could rent the aircraft with the profits going to the YAF aircraft acquisition fund. This type of plan could be used for other aircraft purchases also. Anyone interested contact Dennis Norton as soon as possible. We already have 5 people. Five more and it's ours.

YAF OFFICE

We need some volunteers to man the YAF office in the hangar between 12 and 4, Monday thru Saturday. This would allow visitors to come in and the phone to be answered. Office work such as mailings could also be done. Anyone with an interest in doing this one or more days a week please call Dennis Norton.

CONFEDERATE AIR SHOW

On Sunday, October 10, 1982, Harlingen, Texas will host the Confederate Air Force Annual Air Show. This is a major Air Show and we would like the Yankee Air Force to be present dressed in our navy blue and whites. We have arranged with Republic Airlines to use a DC-9 to fly us to this event. The flight will leave early in the morning and come back late at night after the show. The DC-9 can accommodate only 122 people. The cost will be $225 per person and it will be on a first come first served basis. If you wish to go we must have your money in by August 1st. If we do not get enough people by August 1st, the flight will be cancelled and all money will be returned. After the plane is reserved there will be no refunds or cancellations unless you can find someone else to take your seat. Other details such as flight times, food and beverage service, etc., will be announced at a later date. Sign up now with your payment so the Yankee Air Force can show up in force in our own DC-9. Remember if we haven't reserved the DC-9 by August 1st, we can't go. Call Terry Emery - 422-6278, Bill Wier - 453-7873, Cindy Smith - 487-5936, or Dennis Norton - 482-5548, to sign up. Your seat will be reserved when payment is made.

YAF AREA REPRESENTATIVES

We are going to assign certain people to be local contacts in outstate areas. If you live in an area quite far from Willow Run and wish to be a local contact, let Dennis Norton or George Taylor know. This will involve trying to get local publicity and being listed as the local contact. You'll have to take phone calls and explain the YAF to prospective members. We'll do the rest after the contacts are made. This could eventually lead to the formation of other YAF chapters.

Flint, Mid Michigan
David Pettyes YAF #244
8505 Apple Blossom Lane
Flushing, MI 48433 313-659-1686

New Jersey
Lee Herron YAF #464
Caldwell Essex County Airport
R 5 Passaic Avenue
Fairfield, New Jersey 07006
201-736-9092 or 201-575-9621

Boston, Massachusetts
Rusty Restuccia YAF #345
100 Willard Street
Quincy, MA 02168 617-479-4678

FOLDING CHAIRS

We still need 300 folding chairs. Until we get them, please bring a chair to the meetings.

HANGAR RESTORATION

There is a lot of work to do on the hangar. Stop by Saturdays and Sundays to help. Jobs are listed on the blackboard. Painting & scraping is #1.

YAF MEMBERSHIPS

Anyone who joins in the first full year of the Yankee Air Force becomes a charter member. This is a tremendous selling point for soliciting new members. Everyone try to bring in new people to join the YAF. We must continue growing.

Charter membership - $25.00 annual

Charter membership - spouse - $10.00 annual

Charter Life membership (individual) $500.00 one time

Conditional Life membership - $12.50/month for 48 months ($600.00) or $25.00/month for 24 months ($600.00)

Charter Corporate membership - $500.00 minimum (annual)

Charter memberships are offered from September 25, 1981, through September 24, 1982. New dues after charter membership closes will be as approved by the Board prior to September 24, 1982.

A one-time initiation fee will be charged all new members after September 24, 1982.

MEETING NOTICES AND CANCELLATIONS

Notices of membership meetings are published in the Ann Arbor News, Ypsilanti Press, Detroit News, and Detroit Free Press. In addition, WAAM radio and Six Star Cablevision in Ypsilanti broadcast meeting notices.

If any meeting must be cancelled it will be held the following week, same time, same place. We have arranged with WAAM in Ann Arbor and WJR and WWJ in Detroit to broadcast notice of cancellation. So if you have any question about whether a meeting will be held, listen to one of those stations.

HANGAR RENTAL

Hangar space is available in the YAF hangar for any historic aircraft at least 30 years old or any military aircraft regardless of age. Space is also available for restoration projects. We want to have many aircraft on public display in the hangar as the beginning of our museum. If you would like to fly with the YAF and have your aircraft on public display in the YAF hangar or know anyone who would, please call Dennis Norton or Greg Smith. We also have individual maintenance rooms available for anyone needing one.

We will always try to keep rents low to encourage a good selection of historic aircraft in our hangar. This plus the idea of keeping your aircraft in the YAF hangar with many other historic aircraft is something to seriously consider. All aircraft in the hangar may be included in YAF open houses and airshows. All aircraft will be flown, maintained, and insured by owners.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dennis Norton, President - 482-5548
Greg Smith, Vice-President - 487-5936
Patti Meyer, Treasurer - 439-7976
Cindy Smith, Secretary - 487-5936
Elmer Spencer - 485-8900
George Taylor - 434-4753
Harry Terpstra - 485-3049
Tom Wilkins - 525-2616
Phil Lundy - 664-9171

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

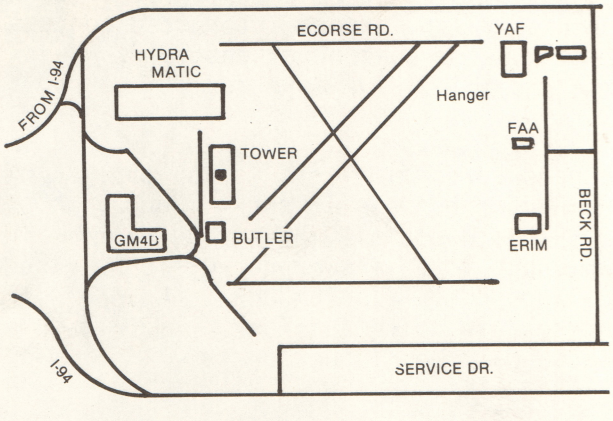
Membership - Harry Terpstra - 485-3049
Finance - Patti Meyer - 439-7976
Aircraft Procurement - Elmer Spencer - 485-8900
Retail Sales - Terry Emery - 422-6278
Publicity - George Taylor - 434-4753
Program - Ken Lentz - 522-3854
Hangar - Dick Kolbas - 729-3596
Pilot Certification - Mike LaPine
Museum/History - Phil Lundy - 644-9171

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Membership meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Yankee Air Force hangar, Willow Run Airport. Please mark these dates on the calendar. The strength of the YAF lies solely in the participation of its membership. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and end between 9:30 and 10:00 depending on the program. Many committees hold short meetings; officers, Board members and committee chairpersons are available for discussions; and YAF hats, t-shirts, patches, and video tapes can be purchased. Always try to bring new members to the meeting where they can join.

Attend the membership meetings, find out what we're doing, how you can help, and enjoy some great programs.

BOARD MEETINGS - ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Board of Directors meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the Yankee Air Force hangar on Beck Road. Meetings are open to anyone. Board meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

The Advisory Council meets in conjunction with the Board of Directors, same time, same place. Please volunteer one or more times to meet with the Board on this Council and give your ideas.